

Gilbert (D.)

LECTURE

INTRODUCTORY TO THE COURSE

OF

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF SURGERY

IN THE

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

OF

PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE,

PHILADELPHIA.

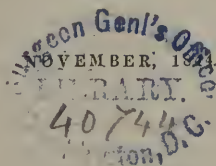
FOR THE SESSION 1844-45.



BY DAVID GILBERT, M. D.

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PUBLISHED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE CLASS.  
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Box 3.



PHILADELPHIA:

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1844.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Philadelphia, Nov. 13, 1844.

DEAR SIR :

At a meeting of the students of Pennsylvania Medical College, held in the lower lecture room, (Mr. WM. T. BABB, of Penn. in the chair, and Mr. N. C. SKINNER, of North Carolina, Secretary,) the undersigned were appointed a committee on behalf of the class, to request a copy of your introductory lecture for publication.

In performing this pleasing duty, the committee would respectfully request that the wishes of their fellow-students be complied with, and beg leave to add on their own part the sincere desire they feel to witness the publication of your highly eloquent and instructive address.

Very respectfully,

DANIEL HERSHEY, Penn.

A. FRAZIER, Penn.

JOHN L. HILL, Ohio.

R. WALTON, Penn.

C. H. LEISTNER, Tennessee.

C. A. COWGILL, Delaware.

Prof. D. GILBERT.

GENTLEMEN :

Tremont House, Phila. Nov. 14, 1844.

Your polite note of to day, requesting for publication, a copy of my introductory address, to the class of the medical department of Pennsylvania College, has been received. Regarding this request as an evidence of a disposition in the class to profit by the admonitory hints, which it was my aim to impress upon that occasion, I do not feel at liberty to refuse, and, therefore, I send you a copy.

Accept for yourselves, gentlemen, as well as the representatives of the class, in our young institution, assurances of esteem, &c., from

Yours respectfully,

D. GILBERT.

Messrs. Hill,
Frazier,
Hershey,
Cowgill,
Walton,
Leistner, } Committee.

INTRODUCTORY.

GENTLEMEN!

THE occasion which has brought us together, this evening, places us in the occupancy of a very interesting and important relation towards each other. You have come hither, from all parts of this widely extended Republic, and neighbouring Provinces, for the purpose of prosecuting your researches in the several departments of medicine; and I appear before you to deliver my first course of lectures, on the *Principles and Practice of Surgery*. It is important, then, that we pause and inquire how we may spend most profitably this our first professional interview.

There are periods in the lifetime of every reflecting individual, which are ever after reverted to with pleasure or regret, in proportion as they designate events which have resulted in the commencement of a career of usefulness, success and honor, or their opposites. We are frequently surprised, in reviewing the past, that occurrences, apparently trivial in themselves, have subsequently led to and controlled circumstances of great moment in our history, and as often regret that we have suffered opportunities of usefulness and advancement to pass by unimproved; which, if they had been embraced and turned to a proper account, might have resulted in lasting benefits to ourselves and others. It is, therefore, proper, that we be circumspect at all times, and in every situation in life; but to you who are about to commence attendance upon a course of lectures, it is momentarily important that you make the wisest resolves, and devise the best plans at this particular period of your studies. For I can assure you, that through life, you will look back to no epoch in your professional career, so frequently, either with self-gratulation or self-upbraiding as to this; when a single step, towards the improvement or misimprovement of the opportunities provided in the lecture rooms and hospitals of this city, may determine the character of your future comfort, usefulness, and reputation in the profession.

Hitherto you have pursued your studies in the offices of your preceptors, in comparative leisure, and in the quiet of retirement, taking up a single department at a time, and thus you have proceeded until the whole

course of reading was concluded, nothing hindering the entire concentration of your minds upon the several subjects successively. You are now, however, entering upon a *lecture term*, during which all these subjects will again be presented to you, necessarily much condensed, and in quick succession, owing to the short space of time allotted to the course. Your minds will be required to make rapid transitions from subject to subject,—for each professor will present in turn, that which he deems most important in his particular department,—and hence Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, Therapeutics, the Practice, Obstetrics, Chemistry and Surgery, with their collateral subjects, will be brought before you every day, each claiming your attention for a season.

I may then at the outset apprize you of the fact, that in forming a connexion with a medical college you do not seat yourselves in a castle of ease or indolence—that you will have more to do, than eating, sleeping, and viewing this splendid city—that, in short, it will be necessary for you to devote your time and energies wholly to the business which ostensibly brought you here, if you would enter respectably the noble and honourable profession of your choice. A mere hearing of the lectures will not be sufficient; your minds will have to be actively exercised if you desire to be well qualified, ere you go forth from these walls to cast branches into the bitter waters of life, that they may be sweetened by the removals of the “ills that flesh is heir to.”

No portion of the population of this busy world is characterized by greater industry than those members of medical colleges who discharge their duties properly during lecture term. You have here provided for you facilities of no ordinary character for the acquisition of the knowledge you are seeking. This time-honoured metropolis, the acknowledged emporium of medical science, is still the city in which medical students “most do congregate,” and her avenues to professional knowledge and distinction are constantly opening wider and becoming more numerous. Your standing in the profession and success in discharging its duties hereafter, will depend upon the foundation which you lay, and the persevering energy with which you prosecute your studies and conduct your observations *here*. In a few years, you who are now candidates for professional honors, will be engaged in another sphere of exertion, you will occupy our places, and be the representatives of the profession in this great and growing country. Endeavour, therefore, to possess yourselves of the knowledge here provided, which it has been the business of one hundred generations, of the wisest men, slowly to accumulate, and which you must have if you would maintain the honor and dignity of the trust committed to your hands. This wisdom and experience of the mighty past cannot become yours successfully, except by the exercise of that untiring diligence and unwearied industry, which ever characterizes those, who are distinguished in any of the departments of knowledge. Let then your industry be brought to bear upon this unbounded field which is now opening before you—let it be your resolution this evening to *commence*, and *continue* to prosecute, your studies with an ardent desire to obtain the greatest amount possible, of the great fundamental truths, which it will be the aim of each professor to present; and you will not fail to reach the high honors and distinctions which attach to the science of medicine.

Having charge of the department of Surgery, it is but reasonable that you should expect me, upon the present occasion, to direct your attention to some subject bearing directly upon that particular branch. With a view to meet such expectations I would urge it upon you, in the first place, *to qualify yourselves for the exercise of a high degree of self-confidence in the practice of Surgery.* As surgeons you will have much to do with cases of sudden emergency; these will spring upon you, the result of accident, under the most trying circumstances, when there is little time for reflection, and none for reference to authors. It is then, that *self-confidence* will be found an invaluable, yes, an indispensable qualification: it alone can endow you with that calm firmness of self-possession and presence of mind which is necessary to correct decision and prompt action, both of which may be requisite to the safety of your patient.

You may be called to cases in which the respiratory function is obstructed—the circulating fluid may be passing fast away through the gaping orifice of some cut or lacerated artery; or the sensorium itself may be so compressed as to threaten the speedy arrest of every vital movement. Under these circumstances the most trifling indecision, the least faltering in action, arising from an absence of the most perfect self-possession, may result in irrecoverable collapse. This confidence which is so indispensable to you as surgeons, can have no perfect security, but in extensive, varied, and thorough knowledge—knowledge has no resources apart from unremitting study—and study has no power or success unless its subjects are in accordance with those great and never varying laws, which are truth without any admixture of error, written in letters of living light by the Creator himself, upon all the witnesses of his power. Confidence thus based, enabled the Hunters, the Coopers, the Larreys, and the Physicks, to perform those wonderful achievements in Surgery which made them the pride of the age in which they lived. Holding these up to you as models, we would exhort you to acquire a like degree of confidence, by labouring as they laboured and studying as they studied; winding through all the intricacies of that path which leads to the exalted eminence which they occupied.

But I must, secondly, *caution you against every form of false confidence.* There is a confidence of ignorance, and here in Surgery, a little learning may become a very dangerous thing. There are persons in the profession who have enjoyed some opportunities, and who by subsequent industry might have become safe practitioners, but in consequence of indolence, intemperance, or neglect, have degenerated into mere routinists. These, by a sort of hardihood, conceal their ignorance, and assume a species of confidence, which enables them to maintain a standing as regular practitioners in some communities; their common-place and eventless career resembling very much the horse in the mill, who travels his incessant round, yet is always found within the same narrow circle. There is also an assumption of confidence by the *empiric*, because it is necessary to the impositions which he studies to practise, and which constitute his stock in trade. This is the confidence of *ignorance* and *knavery* combined. In this way he caricatures the honoured profession which he affects to represent, whose livery and name he has stolen, inflicting upon it serious wrongs, and at the same time scattering

the arrows of death in the community in which he is permitted to exist. To prove that this confidence which is altogether assumed by the mercenary charlatan, exercises a most astonishing influence over the minds of men, we need but refer to the fact, that the most unmeaning mummeries, certain mysterious motions of the hand, contortions of the face, or drawing *wooden tractors* over the diseased part, have been received by persons, claiming ordinary intelligence in other matters, as means of cure for the most fearful maladies that afflict the human body. I was once called to a case of wounded tibial artery; the patient had lost a great quantity of blood, in consequence of delay, resulting from attempts to stop the hemorrhage by such means, administered by an individual who according to his own representation had invariably been successful, except in this instance, and hence very wisely concluded that this must be a "*pulse wain*," (artery).

The *nostrum monger*, the vender of specifics, is cherished by a too confiding portion of mankind, merely because he puts forth, with the most unblushing confidence, his pills, syrups and panaceas, whose name is legion, to prey upon the very life-blood of their unsuspecting victims. To sustain their professions of confidence, the ignorant are persuaded, and the wicked are hired to furnish the most extravagant certificates of cure—the press is paid for its agency in sustaining the imposture; and thus the pockets of the credulous are picked, their diseases aggravated, and, not unfrequently, death is the result of a misapplication of the supposed cure-all remedy. I shall never be able to destroy the vivid recollection of several deaths, which I was called upon to witness, caused by some of these death-dealing nostrums. The whole fraternity of "*herb doctors*," by an assumption of confidence, which admits of no peradventure, frequently succeed in persuading whole communities, for a season at least, that vegetable remedies are more congenial to our natures than mineral substances—that mullien leaves, red pepper, and lobelia, form the blood and bones—that henbane, prussic acid, strychnine and stramonium nourish the system, at the same time that they are highly medicinal—whilst, agreeably to the theories of these sage medical philosophers, muriate of soda, magnesia, potassa, lime, alumina and iron, which every intelligent man knows really constitute the basis of the human fabric, are condemned as poisonous—and they are believed. These have not the most remote idea of the office of individual organs, nor are they desirous of knowing a single law of the animal economy. But there are forms of empiricism, which with equal confidence approach the really learned and refined circles of society. These, by an adaptation of their sublimated theories, to the tastes of such, and by the assumption of an imposing profundity, never fail to meet with some subjects willing to become their patrons. Homœopathy, Hydrosudopathy, Mesmerism with its recent modification, Neurypnotism, are specimens of this class. These, driven by persecution over the old world, have found a temporary refuge in our happy country, "ever the home of the stranger and the asylum of the oppressed." We need not, however, be surprised at the credulity of mankind, in receiving the absurdities practised by the mountebank quack in our profession as true, when we look at their readiness to believe the extravagant vaga-

ries of impostors, in the other departments of knowledge. Witness, for instance, the tens of thousands who rallied around the standard of the late prophet of Nauvoo; and the hundreds of thousands whose knees were made to smite each other, by the predictions of Miller!

But human credulity has its limits, and in this lies our encouragement. All this *vaunting, deceitful confidence* basely assumed, by practitioners of every grade of imposture, is short-lived. The faith inspired in its votaries endures but for a season. The expectations excited are never realized, and thus the *charlatan* goes on until surrounded by thick thronging difficulties, when suddenly he finds it necessary to take his departure, without bidding adieu, or stopping to ascertain whether the sun, or moon, or even any twinkling star is lighting his pathway to another location. An intelligent community may be deceived for a time, and though fond of fiction, in other matters, it will have none in medicine. In such a location a scrutiny will have to be encountered which none but the thoroughly qualified can meet successfully. *Confidence*, then, so indispensable to every practitioner, must never be *assumed*, it must be *real*, and to be such, should ever rest upon *knowledge, thorough, varied, correct, extensive knowledge*. Thus furnished, your minds will have sufficient energy to devise, your hearts will be endowed with courage to execute, and you will have an unfaltering hand, with which you will be able to accomplish all that the most trying emergency in Surgery may call for.

Let me then, in the third place, direct your attention to the course of study which I consider necessary to qualify you for the exercise of this confidence.

Some of you, no doubt, intend to give special attention to Surgery, and others, perhaps, have matured their plans with a view to the practice of medicine exclusively. To the latter we would say, become Surgeons also, or you will not be good practitioners of medicine; moreover, in country situations cases often occur in which you must operate, or valuable lives will be lost. My advice then to *all* of you is, so to arrange your studies and prosecute your researches, as to become well qualified Surgeons, characterized by that *confidence* which rests upon knowledge only, and which is indispensable. This you will accomplish most certainly and successfully, not by exclusive attention to the department of Surgery alone, but by giving equal attention to all the branches usually taught in the schools of medicine. That this is your true course we will endeavour very briefly to show.

That ANATOMY furnishes the ground work of correct Surgery you will all admit. The Surgeon who is not familiar with the various systems of organs which compose the human body, their numerous relations and minute structure, is like a man stumbling in the dark, not knowing where he is, or whither he is going—or like the mariner in an unknown ocean, without chart, compass, or star, to guide him. When he attempts an operation, he at once encounters a host of difficulties, which multiply as he proceeds—unforeseen obstacles thicken upon him, until he finds himself totally unable to grapple with the trying emergencies of his situation, and he is forced to abandon his patient to his cheerless and aggravated fate, himself overwhelmed with unutterable

confusion and disgrace. There can be no valid excuse offered, in the present day, for the neglect of a most thorough acquaintance with this department; since the facilities for prosecuting its study have been of late so greatly augmented by the publication of books and plates, and the manufacture of the most accurate models out of materials which are imperishable and can never become offensive. These convey knowledge sufficiently accurate, and we do not hesitate to recommend their use, yet *not* to the exclusion of the good old way, whose meanderings are found in the dissecting room: this, though at times a rugged path, must be travelled, if you desire truth without error; and in this way only, can you acquire skill in the use of the knife. Dr. Matthew Bailey, to whom Surgery owes so much, obtained his knowledge of the human fabric in this way, from his earliest years of study, to the close of his eventful life. It was this devotion to Anatomy that enabled him to furnish to the world his admirable work on morbid structures, and rendered him so successful in their removal and treatment. The biographer of Sir Astley Cooper informs us, that this illustrious surgeon spent six hours every day in the prosecution of practical anatomy. Here, gentlemen, we have the secret of his success and the true foundation of his greatness as a surgeon. Let not, then, the opportunities here afforded you, in this department, pass by unimproved,—be assured that so long as you continue in the exercise of the duties of the profession, you will felicitate yourselves on account of the midnight hours spent in the dissecting room, where the *foundation* of all the confidence which you may be justified to exercise in the practice of Surgery, will have been laid.

But anatomy alone is not sufficient—no matter how well and to what degree of minuteness you may understand the machinery of the human body, or how dexterous you may become in the use of the knife, you are yet totally unqualified to exercise the most ordinary functions of Surgery.

The organization displayed by Anatomy, has superadded to it the principle of life, which endows every organ, tissue and fibril, with ability to perform certain offices, which are peculiar to each. These, taken together, constitute the complicated phenomena of life: their knowledge and the influence they exert upon each other, are embraced in the science of **PHYSIOLOGY**. A knowledge of these healthy operations of the system and the laws which govern them is necessary to the surgeon that he may understand the nature and extent of diseased action, whether there be organic lesion, or mere functional derangement. He must also be acquainted with the nature of those influences which tend to depress or destroy the healthy operations of the organism, to which it is necessarily exposed. In this way he will be enabled to analyze and classify states of disease from his accurate knowledge of the vital processes in a state of health. It must, therefore, be admitted by the most ordinary understanding that it is impossible to be a judge of disease, without a competent knowledge of the due performance of all the bodily functions which constitute health. Hence all who have ever deserved the name of surgeons were also physiologists; prided themselves in their attainments in the science, and cultivated most assiduously a correct knowledge of it.

But this leads us insensibly to another department equally important to Surgery—viz. the science of the diseased actions of the organs of the body constituting *Pathology*.—Here we have disease itself, which must be known and fully understood before we propose to apply remedies. The mere routinist in Surgery is satisfied with knowing certain symptoms as characterizing diseases by name, and in being able to apply certain remedies, or cures that have been found useful without any physiological, pathological, or therapeutic reasoning. The well informed Surgeon, however, proceeds very differently. He investigates the nature of the malady submitted to him, by ascertaining which organ is affected, the degree of morbid action present in that organ, the effect of such morbid action upon the system in general, and thus by tracing symptoms to the derangement of their respective organs, he practises safely, and in the full exercise of an intelligent confidence. Pathology enables him to grasp the various modifications of disease which the organs or their constituent tissues put on, and points to the most rational indications of cure.

Nearly allied to the study of *Pathology*, *Morbid Anatomy* comes in as a most powerful adjuvant to the surgeon, and deserves his special attention. Here he finds disease dissected, and its actual ravages, in the production of organic lesions, displayed to view in the morbid structures of the organs, enabling him to wield with mighty energy, his weapons against an enemy whose strong holds he has exposed to view. This branch has been placed upon a sure basis, and the light which it affords has dispelled for ever those general assumptions, and idle notions, which were formed and fostered by a mere superficial examination of symptoms alone.

But whilst Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology and Morbid Anatomy, furnish the only true basis upon which our knowledge of the real nature of disease rests, they point out no therapeutic agents for the removal of such surgical diseases as do not require to be remedied by operation. Very few, if any, of the cases submitted to the surgeon are remedied by operative procedures alone, the exhibition of internal remedial means constituting a necessary part of the treatment. Hence the department of *Materia Medica* is as indispensable to the surgeon as to the practitioner of medicine. Its rich stores derived from all the kingdoms of nature, furnish the munitions of that warfare which he is uninterruptedly waging against the strong holds of disease. The remedies furnished by this department are as indispensable to the surgeon as his right hand; for apart from those surgical diseases which yield to medicine alone, the experience of every surgeon proves that success in operating depends more upon the constitutional treatment of the patient, before and after the operation than upon the dexterity of the surgeon in its performance. No practitioner is more frequently called to cases of imminent danger than the surgeon: in such it becomes necessary, independently of all operative proceedings, to draw largely upon the resources furnished so copiously by this department, or life may be speedily extinguished. Think not, young gentlemen, that you may pass carelessly over this department, and that it is not *materially* necessary to surgery; for you cannot be surgeons without it. Let your knowledge, therefore, of this branch be minute and thorough, and you will yourselves be surprised at the vic-

tories which you will be able to achieve over disease, and to find how frequently you will be able to dispense with that which should always be your last resort, viz., the knife; to succeed without which should always be our first aim.

It is my design merely to assert, in this connexion, that a knowledge of *Chemistry* is requisite to a correct understanding of every other branch of medical knowledge; for as its own caloric is a necessary constituent of all bodies, so the subjects treated in every branch of medicine are pervaded by the laws of Chemistry, and can be correctly understood, and properly appreciated, only by a most thorough knowledge of its sublime mysteries. But for proof and illustration of this subject, I refer you to the introductory of my esteemed colleague who has special charge of that department.

You will observe, young gentlemen, that thus far, agreeably to our views, the student of the practice of medicine, and the student of surgery, necessarily travel together; for the several departments named, it must be admitted by all, constitute the elementary studies of the practitioner of medicine as well as of the surgeon. The question very naturally presents itself, whether they shall now separate—whether the path of one shall diverge from that of the other, or whether they shall continue to walk together, for the purpose of securing an equal knowledge of both departments? I most unhesitatingly declare in favour of the latter, for the practice of medicine necessarily includes a knowledge of Surgery, and the practice of Surgery as necessarily includes the practice as well as the knowledge of medicine. The division into Surgery and practice is purely artificial, they rest upon the same foundation, and are enriched from the same stores of knowledge. The *science* of both is one and indivisible, and therefore equally necessary to each; the only difference to be found is in the practice, and even here, the boundaries are not easily defined. Cases clearly within the province of the practitioner, in the commencement of disease, may have superadded, or be changed into a disease, as unequivocally within the domain of Surgery. Thus, in puerperal fever, accompanied with or followed by erysipelas—fever followed by abscesses—uterine hemorrhage, complicated with or caused by polypus, or fibrous tumour of the uterus. Would it not be preposterous in the extreme, in ordinary practice, and especially in country situations, to employ a physician for the one, and a surgeon for the other malady? On the other hand, the physician is called to pneumonia or ascites, either of which may so terminate as to require the operation of paracentesis of its respective cavity. In Surgery every fracture, dislocation, or operation, is followed by local disturbance, and when severe, by general constitutional derangement, on account of which the whole fabric is in danger, without correct medical treatment. The same may be said of such diseases as arise from an idiopathic or traumatic cause, such as tetanus, phrenitis, gangrene, mortification, &c.

The various forms of fever, whether the mildest intermittent excited into action by external injury, or by cold—or hectic, from tubercles of the lungs, lumbar abscess, or malignant degeneration of some of the tissues, all indisputably prove that Medicine and Surgery are but parts of a grand whole, and that the student preparing to practise in either department successfully and reputably, must attend to precisely the

same *elementary studies*. Thus educated, gentlemen, you will be qualified to become general practitioners,—and this every one of you should be—and if circumstances or inclination should determine you to choose Surgery subsequently, you will have laid the only true foundation, for eminence and usefulness in this particular department. Thus furnished, you will be ready for every emergency. The most appalling cases, such as strike with dismay and horror the stoutest heart, will be met by you with that calm and full self-possession which characterizes none but the accomplished surgeon. Resolve, then, at the *outset* of your lecture term, to improve the time. Come to the work with all the mental energy which you possess, and do not permit a single hour to be lost. Let your first session be “*the hard session*”—let the second session be equally “*hard*,” and if you can return to spend a third, you will find abundance yet to learn. Do not at any time cherish the idea that you will have nothing more to acquire after you shall have reached a certain point, or that it is possible for you to obtain too much knowledge,—nay, be assured that a lifetime is too short a period to reach perfection even when devoted to a single branch. Seize upon all the knowledge, immediate and collateral, relating to medicine, which here presses itself upon you in such abundance. Here there is opportunity, withhold not your industry; for opportunity and industry produce greater differences in the mental acquirements of men than natural talents. Let not the idea that you “are preparing for a country situation,” deter any from making an effort to acquire extensive attainments; for medicine is a philanthropic department of human knowledge, devoted to the alleviation of human misery *wherever* found. Its ministers should, in every station, be prepared to do that amount of good which the advanced state of knowledge is capable of conferring. Why not fill our villages, every where, with Wistars, Parrishes, Physicks, Rushs, Eberles and Colhouns?

It is an encouraging fact, and one of which the profession may be justly proud, that the mental intercourse of the world is greatest in matters relating to medicine—none of the learned professions diffuses knowledge so widely and abundantly, by means of schools, journals, and books, as that which you have chosen. Hence, medical science is not stationary, but its march is steadily onward, and it is continually developing the most magnificent results. You should, therefore, secure all present knowledge, that you may be able to keep pace with future advancement, and aid in the exploration of the unbounded field which lies open to all, where your investigations need not terminate; for every case of disease presents a new problem, requiring all the knowledge which you can bring to it for its elucidation and solution. The eventful age in which you live requires entire devotion to your profession, for it is pre-eminently an age of literary conquest. The arts and sciences are speeding their march and obtaining victories which the most vagrant fancy could not have imaged forth at the commencement of this century, and their developments have been truly wonderful. All our systems of philosophy, moral, as well as physical, have been and are undergoing a purifying process, and the dross which so long tarnished them is being speedily expelled. Medicine has more than kept pace with these. Her interests will be committed into your hands, in a very few years, and it will become your duty to continue her improvements,

until mighty truth shall have removed every vestige of error, now so rife in some parts of our land, where it is permitted to stalk abroad like the pestilence, "walking in darkness and wasting at noon-day."

Determine then *now* upon such a course, and the attainment of the indispensable qualification which we have named. And thus panoplied in the armour of extensive and well arranged professional truth, you can go forth, rising superior to the ordinary trials incident to the profession; and though your career may be noiseless and unobtrusive, like the hidden rill which can only be traced by the verdure that springs up in its course, so will you be known by the grateful aspirations of affection and confidence from those who are the happy recipients of your well directed ministrations. And when called upon to manage cases under the most trying circumstances, when the hands of all are paralyzed, and none can exercise a proper degree of calmness for the emergency; nerved in the *confidence* which is derived from the course of training which we have designated, you can approach with all that magnanimous self-possession which the peculiar emergency of the case requires, stay, if need be, the fast receding ebb of life, inspire all interested with hope, restore joys which had departed; and more than all, you will yourselves experience that inward luxury, which is always accorded by an approving conscience, to those who properly fulfil the great object of their existence, by doing good in the particular sphere of life assigned them.